

Claims

We claim:

1. A method for storing binary files in a database comprising:
 - creating a record in a database;
 - placing a binary file in a field in said record;
 - translating the binary file into a text format;
 - placing the translated text format in a different field in said record.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - allowing a search of the translated text format.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said translating step comprises:
 - determining the file format of the binary file; and
 - applying an appropriate algorithm to the binary file.
4. A method for searching a database containing binary files, said method comprising:
 - entering a query directed to the content of binary files;
 - performing the query on the content of a field containing a text translation of binary files;
 - returning the results of the query; and
 - allowing users to access the binary file associated with a particular record.
5. A method for searching a database containing binary files, said method comprising:
 - performing a search of the database;
 - returning records meeting user-selected criteria;

determining if the records contain binary data in a specific field;
allowing the download of the binary file.